

Dedrick Asante-Muhammad
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Summary

Dedrick Asante-Muhammad has spent the last 20 years focused on understanding and addressing racial economic inequality. He has become known for his racial wealth divide analysis highlighted in the [State of the Dream](#) report series, the widely cited “[The Road to Zero Wealth](#)” report and more recently “[Ten Solutions to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide](#).” Dedrick has developed expertise in diversity, inclusion and procurement as reflected in the Opportunity and Diversity series and the “[Racial and Ethnic Representation and Investment Framework for the Banking Industry](#).” He has also focused on racial inequality related to entrepreneurship, homeownership and the need to better utilize and invest in nonprofits of color. In 2018 Dedrick founded Race, Wealth and Opportunity (RWO) LLC to support organizations building capacity to understand, analyze, address, and develop approaches to addressing racial economic inequality. Previous clients of RWO include the NAACP, Associate Black Charities, and Mercy Housing Lakefront.

RESUME

Professional Experience

National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Washington DC

Chief of Membership, Policy and Equity

Oversee four departments in NCRC: Membership, Policy, Research and Organizing. One of the major projects coming out of this division are the community benefit agreements. NCRC works with banks across the country in documenting how they will meet Community Reinvestment Act requirements to meet the credit needs of their communities. Dedrick continues to speak nationwide on racial economic inequality and promising programs, policies and practices to bridge the racial wealth divide.
2021

National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Washington DC

Chief of Race, Wealth and Community: Advancing Inclusive Economic Empowerment

The Race, Wealth and Community Division of NCRC focuses on addressing economic insecurity, inequality and advancing asset building amongst low wealth communities of color. The Chief of Race, Wealth and Community works with the entire organization in strengthening partnerships and analysis focused on racial economic inequality. Also serves as a voice of the organization at public events across the country and, oversees: the Housing Counseling Network, , the National Training Academy, Racial Economic Equity and the Women’s Business Center of Washington DC.
2019 - 2021

Prosperity Now (formerly CFED), Washington DC

Racial Wealth Divide Senior Fellow, formerly Director of the Racial Wealth Divide Initiative

Founded the Racial Wealth Divide Initiative at Prosperity Now eventually becoming the Racial Wealth Divide Senior Fellow of Prosperity Now. Strengthened programs and established best practices and policy recommendations relating to racial economic inequality. Also implemented a process for all teams to strengthen capability in addressing racial economic inequality and develop racial wealth divide strategies.
2015 - 2018

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The NAACP, Baltimore, MD

Senior Director of the Economics Department

Managed a staff of up to 8 and a budget of over 2 million. Served as the lead representative and expert for the NAACP on racial economic inequality. Responsible for rebuilding the NAACP Economic Department and developing four programmatic areas: economic education, fair lending, community economic development, and opportunity and diversity. Produced over 70 articles, including those from my "American Money" financial column, four reports, and had regular appearances on national radio and television. 2010 - 2015

The Institute for Policy Studies, Washington DC

Senior Organizer and Research Associate for the Inequality and Common Good Program

As a lead researcher and spokesperson for the Institute for Policy Studies on Economic Inequality authored or co-authored eight different reports and 42 articles. Did presentations and interviews on economic inequality and coordinated the Race and Economy Policy Forum, a gathering in Washington DC that brought together experts on policy as it relates to race and economics. 2006-2010

Global Justice, Washington DC

Executive Director of Global Justice

Oversaw staff recruitment, development, program monitoring, evaluation, fiduciary management, fundraising, staff monitoring and evaluation, organizational capacity building, strategic planning, maintaining stakeholder relationships, and marketing of this national organization focused on global health and development with over 100 student chapters. 2005-2006

United for a Fair Economy, Boston, MA

Coordinator of Racial Wealth Divide Project

Spoke frequently at conferences, wrote op-eds, did radio and television interviews, and wrote reports on racial economic inequality. I was responsible for the staff of the project and co-founded the first State of the Dream report. 2003-2005

National Action Network, New York, NY

Crisis Director and National Field Director

As Crisis Director, I was responsible for institutionalizing a referral system for the calls coming throughout the country, asking for Rev. Al Sharpton's assistance. As the National Field Director, I served as the interface between our twenty-two chapters and the national office. Traveled nationally and internationally, creating chapters and supporting local civil rights struggles. 2000-2002

Center for Redirection Through Education, Bedford Hills, MA

Student Advisor and Program Coordinator

Provided academic advising to students/inmates and served as the liaison to the officers and the administrators of Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Supervised student/inmate staff of six, created a weekly extra-curricular educational video and discussion group and worked with civilian volunteers. 1999-2000

Williams College, Williamstown, MA

Interim Director of the Multicultural Center

Oversaw three student centers: the Black Student Union House, the Multicultural Center and the Gender Studies Center, two professional staff, and six student interns, as well as coordinating college and community programs. 1997-1998

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Volunteer Experience

Board Member of Better Markets – 2021 to Present

The Racial Equity Subcommittee of the Joe Biden Volunteer Economic Policy Committee
- Summer and Fall of 2020

National League of Cities Advisory Council on Racial Wealth Divide Strategies – 2020 to Present

Chair of Board of Beyond Savvy – 2020 to Present

Board Member of AEO (Association for Enterprise Opportunity) – 2020 to Present

Advisory Council of US Financial Health Network – 2019 to Present

Fellow at Institute for Policy Studies – 2018 to Present

Awards / Honors

- Testified to the House Financial Committee’s Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee on the racial wealth divide 2019
- Testified at the US House Committee on Financial Services Field Hearing in Houston on entrepreneurship and the racial wealth divide 2019
- Participant in Policy Link’s All In Cities Baltimore convenings 2019
- Speaker at Amazon’s first Conversations On Race and Ethnicities Conference 2018
- An Imagining Justice in Baltimore Community Fellow of the Institute for Islamic, Christian, Jewish Studies 2017
- Selected to be part of Conversations on Race and Equality held at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy focused on the Economic Narrative of African Americans 2015
- Completed Rockwood Leadership Institute’s Senior Executive Training 2014
- A member of the racial wealth gap “Experts of Color Network” 2008-2015
- Theta Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year 2009

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Education

Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY
M.A. in Systematic Theology

Williams College, Williamstown, MA
B.A. in Political Science

Media Highlights

- work has been published and or cited in **the New York Times, Times Magazine, USA Today, the Guardian, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post, Fortune Magazine, Los Angeles Times, The Nation, and Ebony**
- Television interviews include **CSPAN, Al Jazeera, CNBC, BBC America, the Roland Martin Show, CNN,** and regular appearances on MSNBC's **Chris Hayes show.**
- Radio interviews included national public radio programs "**Tell Me More,**" "**Marketplace,**" and "**CounterSpin.**" Have been interviewed on "**Democracy Now,**" the **Ed Schultz Radio Show,** Sirius Satellite's "**Make it Plain,**" and Rev Al Sharpton's nationally syndicated "**Keeping It Real.**"

PUBLICATIONS (authored, co-authored or contributed to)

REPORTS AND ARTICLES

What Chinatowns Can Teach Us About Community, Other Words, May 2021(co-author)

Black Entrepreneurship's Lethal Pre-Existing Condition: The Racial Wealth Divide During the COVID Crisis, NCRC, (co-author) April 2021

Women, Men and the Racial Wealth Divide Snapshot, NCRC (co-author) April 2021

60% Black Homeownership: A Radical Goal for Black Wealth Development, NCRC, March 2021

Impact of COVID-19: African American Entrepreneurship in Piedmont, North Carolina, NCRC and Piedmont Business Capital, November 2020

Racial Wealth Snapshot: Immigration And The Racial Wealth Divide, NCRC, October 2021

Racial and Ethnic Representation and Investment Framework For the Banking Industry, NCRC, November 2020

The Simplest Way to Close the Racial Wealth Gap? Direct Cash Payments, The Guardian, July 2020

Eight Solutions to Ensure Economic Recovery Reduces the Racial Wealth Divide, Institute for Policy Studies, (co-author) June 2020

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Racial Wealth Snapshot: Asian Americans and the Racial Wealth Divide, NCRC, (co-author) May 2020

Financial Coaches, Let's Be Upfront About Economic Structural Racism, Shelterforce, February 2020

Racial Wealth Snapshot: African Americans and the Racial Wealth Divide, NCRC, (co-author) February 2020

Racial Wealth Snapshot: Native Americans and the Racial Wealth Divide, NCRC, (co-author) November 2019

Racial Wealth Snapshot: Latino Americans and the Racial Wealth Divide, NCRC, (co-author) October 2019

How to shrink the wealth gap for minorities and everyone else while we study reparations, USA Today Op-ed, (co-author) April 2019

Ten Solutions To Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide, NCRC, Kirwain Institute of Ohio State and Institute for Policy Studies report, April 2019

The Racial Wealth Divide in Austin Data Profile, Prosperity Now report, February 2019

Martin Luther King's dream requires we overcome our "fantasy of self-deception." Salon Op-ed, (co-author) January 2019

How the 1% profit off of racial economic inequality, The Guardian Op-ed, (co-author) January 2019

Dreams Deferred: How Enriching the 1% Widens the Racial Wealth Divide, Institute for Policy Studies report, January 2019

The Racial Wealth Divide in Dallas Data Profile, Prosperity Now report, October 2018

Reinventing Children's Savings Accounts to Address the Racial Wealth Divide, Prosperity Now report, August 2018

Running In Place: Why The Racial Wealth Divide Keeps Black and Latino Families From Achieving Economic Security, Prosperity Now, March 2018

Racial Equity Policy Design and Advocacy: A Primer, Prosperity Now report, October 2017

The Racial Wealth Divide in South Bend Data Profile, Prosperity Now report, October 2017

Inequality Crisis: Blacks and Latinos On the Road to Zero Wealth, USA Today Op-ed, (co-author) September 2017

The Road to Zero Wealth: How the Racial Wealth Divide is Hollowing out the Middle Class, Prosperity Now and Institute for Policy Studies report, September 2017

Stuck From The Start: The Financial Challenges of Low- and Moderate- Income African-American Entrepreneurs in the South, Prosperity Now report, July 2017

A Down payment on the Divide: Steps to Ease Racial Inequality in Homeownership, Prosperity Now report, March 2017

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Baltimore Could Be a Model for Racial and Economic Equality, Baltimore Sun Op-ed, (co-author) March 2017

The Racial Wealth Divide in Baltimore Data Profile, Prosperity Now report, January 2017

The Racial Wealth Divide in Chicago Data Profile, Prosperity Now report, January 2017

Equitable Investment in the Next Generation: Designing Policies to Close the Racial Wealth Gap, CFED and the Institute for Asset and Social Policy at Brandeis University report, December 2016

The Racial Wealth Divide in New Orleans Data Profile, CFED report, October 2016

The Racial Wealth Divide in Miami Data Profile, CFED report, October 2016

The Ever-Growing Gap: Without Change, African-Americans and Latino Families Won't Match White Wealth for Centuries, CFED and the Institute for Policy Studies, August 2016

Unstacking the Deck: Toward Financial Resilience for African American Entrepreneurs in the South, CFED report, June 2016

Federal Policy Proposal: Presidential Action Needed to Close the Racial Wealth Divide, CFED report, February 2016

The Retail Racial Divide: How the Retail Industry is Perpetuating Racial Inequality, NAACP and Demos report, May 2015

The Opportunity & Diversity Report Card: Healthcare Industry, NAACP report, April 2015

The Opportunity & Diversity Report Card: Consumer Banking Industry, NAACP report, January 2014

The Challenge of Credit Card Debt for the African American Middle Class, NAACP, and Demos report, December 2013

The Opportunity & Diversity Report Card: The Hotel & Resort Industry, NAACP report, December 2012

State of the Dream: Drained, United For A Fair Economy report, January 2010

The Recession's Racial Divide, New York Times Op-ed, (co-author) September 2009

Battered by the Storm: How the Safety Net Is Failing Americans and How to Fix it, Institute for Policy Studies report, December 2009

Challenges to Native American Advancement: The Recession and Native America, Institute for Policy Studies report, November 2009

A Sensible Plan for Recovery, Institute for Policy Studies report, January 2009

State of the Dream: The Silent Depression, United For A Fair Economy report, January 2009

The Mirrors of History, *Sojourners*, June 2008

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Race and Extreme Inequality, *The Nation*, June 2008

40 Years Later: The Unrealized Dream, Institute for Policy Studies report, April 2008

State of the Dream: Foreclosed, United For A Fair Economy Report, January 2008

Race, Wealth and the Commons, *Poverty and Race Journal*, May/June 2007

State of the Dream: Disowned in the Ownership Society, United For A Fair Economy, January 2005

State of the Dream: Enduring Disparities in Black and White, United For A Fair Economy, January 2004

BOOKS

What It's Worth: Strengthening The Financial Future of Families, Communities and The Nation, (contributed a chapter) San Francisco, California: The Federal Reserve Bank, 2015

Mandate for Change: Policies and Leadership for 2009 and Beyond, (contributed a chapter) Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009.

The Wealth Inequality Reader 3rd edition, (co-wrote a chapter)
Boston: Dollars and Sense, 2009.